

JUSTICE Perverted,  
AND  
INNOCENCE & LOYALTY  
Oppressed.

OR, A  
DETECTION  
OF THE  
CORRUPTIONS  
OF SOME

Persons in Places of Great Trust in the  
Government ; which would have  
been laid open the Last Session of  
Parliament, according to the Inten-  
tion of both Houses, had it not been  
prevented.

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*London, Printed in the Year MDCXCV.*

DEFECTION  
OF THE  
CONSTITUTION

tion of both Houses had not been  
assent, according to the  
bill had open the last Session of  
Government; which would have  
the Bill passed or Open I think in the

London, Printed in the Year MDCXCV.

## To the LORDS Spiritual and Temporal, and COMMONS in Parliament Assembled.

**I**F we look back, and consider how often, and to how high a degree His Majesty hath expos'd His Royal Person this War; and what immense Sums of Money have been rais'd during the same, upon the Success whereof not only the well-being of this Kingdom, but the Happiness of Europe depends; one would then conceive the very Apprehension of these things was sufficient to beget a generous Principle in all Persons in Places of Trust, and an Emulation in every Man to outvie each other in Acts of Duty and Loyalty: But they have had a quite different Effect; for many Persons in whom the King hath repos'd great Trust, (forgetting their Duty) have during the Course of this War misrepresented Persons and Things to His Majesty, and made a Prey of the Publick; and the better to cover and carry on their wicked Designs, have dispensed with the Law, perverted Judgment and Justice, punished innocent Persons for doing their Duty; and preferred Criminals, to the great Hazard of the Common Safety: and from whence it is the Nation is now become so much in Debt.

All these Evils would I have twice laid open the last Session of Parliament; but was both times prevented by unjust and illegal Means, which causes me now to address my self to this most August Assembly for Relief: These Corruptions being, I conceive, of much more dangerous Consequence to the Government, (considering what a Faction there's in the Bowels of the Nation) than the War it self, having taken such deep root, and grown to that height, and so strongly supported, as not to be remedied but in Parliament.

I humbly conceive there's no Age can produce greater Instances of Oppression and Injustice, than what the Nation now labours under, and which in part are here set forth: But God hath not left us without Means, Ability, and Opportunity of removing these Evils; for there are great and remarkable Instances of Persons (who have been found corrupt, and have made a Breach of their Trust) that have been censur'd in Parliament; and it's they who are truly and properly the Great Council (and Physician) of the Nation; and as the Effect of whose great Wisdom and Prudence, we now enjoy our Religion and Laws, and the Government hath been kept so long upon its Basis. And when God is pleas'd to make publick Examples of some Men, and to punish them for their Cruelty and Oppression, in such Cases he often makes use of weak and mean Instruments for the bringing his Purposes to pass; that so the World may (as it were) visibly see the hand of Providence: But I am not insensible of my own Inability to manage so great an Undertaking as that it is in which I have engag'd my self, considering the great Interest and Power of my Adversaries: So I have nothing to depend upon but the Justice of my Cause, the Goodness and Stability of our Laws, and the Honour of the Representatives of the Nation; which I humbly conceive will not be wanting to protect me, being able by Substantial Evidence to prove what I have set forth. I am, my Lords and Gentlemen,

Your Honours most obedient Servant,

Robert Crosfield.



**A**LL Nations, even the most barbarous, have ever been jealous of their Liberty; and have rather chose to die fighting in the Field, than be in Bondage to their Adversaries: And in the dark and elder Times of the World, we have Instances of Persons that have sacrific'd their own Lives for the Liberty and Safety of their Native Country: who are to be admird and pity'd, but not imitated: Yet Nature hath stamp'd upon the Minds of all Men, an Affection to their Native Soil; and those who have deviated from it, have ever been look'd upon as Monsters, and treated accordingly. Now, notwithstanding the manifest Danger the Government hath lain under during the War, it will appear that many Persons in Places of the greatest Trust, have fallen from their Duty, and used sinister and indirect Means to enrich themselves, to the great waste of the Publick Treasure, and hazard of the Common Safety of the Nation: And those whom I accuse to have so done, are the Right Honourable the Lords of the Admiralty, Commissioners of the Navy, and the Commissioners for the Sick and Wounded, and exchanging Prisoners at War. But before I enter upon any Matter relating to any of these Commissions, I shall insert a Copy of a Deposition of a certain Merchant which was laid before the Lords of the Admiralty, and is followeth.

**H. B.** of Gosport Merchant; maketh Oath, 'That he hath been an Inhabitant in the Parish of Alverstoke about Twenty eight Years; and his House lying about half a Mile from the Water-side, and about a Mile and a half up the Harbour, he did for some Years serv'd their Majesties Stores at Portsmouth with Rozin and Oil, and several other things: During which time, he hath often observ'd the Stores of that Yard were embezzled in considerable quantities, having met with several sorts in his walks: And doth upon his Oath acknowledge, that he hath dealt for some thousands of Pounds as his Neighbours have done in that Nature; that the Custom of that Yard running on, and rather improving for this three Years last past: And this Depo-  
ment finding great quantities was daily carried up and down a-  
bout

*This Deposition  
which several o-  
thers, (being be-  
fore the Publick  
Statute of Ac-  
counts) I did  
dare might be  
produced, but it  
could not be ob-  
tained; for which  
reason I print it.*

'bout Town, and other places; and several Lads bringing up the  
 ' Mill-Lake some Pitch and Tar at a distance from this Deponent's  
 ' House, and offering him the same to sale: after several times he  
 ' question'd where they had it; and one of them, by name *John New*,  
 ' own'd to him they had it out of the King's Stores: He gave them  
 ' fair warning of such a dangerous Trade, and forthwith went and  
 ' inform'd the Commissioner. And this Deponent farther saith,  
 ' That he received fourteen Barrells of Tar from Capt. *Richard New*,  
 ' Foreman of the Yard; of which fourteen Barrells, the Commis-  
 ' sioner stop'd four, which he this Deponent sent over to *Peris*  
 ' month. Upon which, some Question arising before the Commis-  
 ' sioner about 27 Barrells of Tar, said to be lost out of the Yard;  
 ' and he taking the four Barrells to be part of them, order'd them  
 ' to be carried into Stores, notwithstanding the said *New* own'd  
 ' to have had the fourteen Barrells aforesaid, and clear'd the same  
 ' to him at the *Custom-house*, in the name of one *Thomas Grant*.  
 ' And this Deponent farther saith, That it was here observable,  
 ' that he the said *New*, did very unwillingly own the Delivery of  
 ' them to this Deponent before the Commissioner, till he was  
 ' brought under a Necessity so to do. And farther he saith, When  
 ' he inform'd the Commissioner, he us'd great Freedom with him,  
 ' and remarked to him what Passages had fallen under his Obser-  
 ' vation; and told him unless greater Care was taken, the Nation  
 ' would groan under its Burden before the War was half over;  
 ' and that those Goods could not be carried off without the Consent  
 ' of the Watch: And farther, he admir'd how the Store-keeper  
 ' could pass his Accompts. To which, in a slighting manner, he told  
 ' him, this Deponent, it was all stuff. He farther insisted, the great  
 ' Ones set on the little Ones; and as it was none of this Deponent's  
 ' Concern, he did not desire to bring Mens Names in question, but  
 ' that it was great pity things was not better look'd after. To  
 ' which he reply'd, He desir'd as little trouble as might be; and de-  
 ' sir'd to bring no body in question, and car'd not a Farthing for the  
 ' Service, nor how soon he was out of the Place; for he hinder'd  
 ' himself more than his Salary in another Way: That in two or  
 ' three days after, the Commissioner sent for this Deponent, and  
 ' told him his Business was to confine him aboard a Yatch: Upon  
 ' which he desir'd to know his Crime, and whether Bail might not  
 ' be taken: To which he said no. Then he asked him who accus'd  
 ' him? He answered, that *Thomas* and *Jonas Paul* had sworn they

CAPTAIN  
 Willhaw.

had

had sold this Deponent several Barrels of Pitch and Tar which  
 they stole out of the Stores: And this Deponent desired to see  
 them: and the Commillioner own'd he had given them leave to  
 go away, but he had the Charge against him, this Deponent, un-  
 der their Hands and Seals. To which this Deponent told him,  
 when he must have leave to say two things: First, that he was a  
 Slave to his Trust, for letting the Principals run away: And Se-  
 condly, a Fool for expecting to father their Rogueries upon him.  
 And farther, this Deponent saith, That the said Commillioner  
 swore he would stop his this Deponent's Mouth: and came to  
 him, and told him he was such a Prisoner as was seldom or never  
 heard of, for he should eat, drink, and lie with him, and that he  
 would not part with him this Deponent till he had brought him  
 into a better Humour, or words to this effect: and accordingly car-  
 ried him this Deponent to his House to Dinner, and there took  
 Recognizance for his Appearance; but where this Deponent  
 knows not. And this Deponent farther saith, That he being in-  
 formed by *John Hays* and others, that a Parcel of the best Deals,  
 and some Transom Windows, was carried out of the Yard to Pri-  
 son the *Ile of Wight*: In which this Deponent being willing to  
 assist himself, went to the House, and bought four Load of  
 wood of the Man that liv'd there: And then viewing the House,  
 saw a quantity of very fine *Prussia* Deals sawed, one Part for  
 Walnut, the other for Flowers, and a great deal of other Stuff.  
 And this Deponent enquired of the Farmer, whether they were  
 sold? And he told him they were sent there to repair the  
 House. And this Deponent farther saith, That the Second Day  
 of *August* 1691, one *David Lindsay* came to this Deponent's  
 house, being on a Sunday, and he this Deponent just going to  
 Church, the said *Lindsay* desired him to drink with him, for that  
 he had something to say to him this Deponent: Upon which, he  
 carried him into his own House: and sitting down with him, af-  
 ter they had drank, there passed the following Discourse between  
 them. Mr. *L.* says Mr. *Aldridge*, I hear you and the Commil-  
 lioner had a sad Clash on Thursday last, and every one says you did  
 him Justice: for certainly he's the greatest Rogue that ever came  
 into the Place; and had lost his Commission not long ago, when  
 the *Privy* charg'd him with the Business of the Hawker *Stor* of  
 the *Privy*, but that he the said *Aldridge* was prevail'd with by the  
 Commillioner and some others, to say it was only about ten Fa-  
 thom.

thom of an old Hawser, fit only for Paper-stuff, and worth  
two Shillings six Pence per hundred: which is truth he  
it to him this Depoent, to be as good as a new Hawser, and  
fifteen Fathom pieces, for conveniency of being open'd, and  
a great deal more Money, which he the said *Messrs* declare  
must have own'd if he had been put upon his Oath: but he  
met with by Capt. *Willm*, and Mr. *Somers* and others, and  
swaded to say what he did, nor being upon Oath.

H.

This Deposition sufficiently discovers to what a sad Pass the  
Nation is brought, in having the Publick Stores embezzled, and those  
concerned in: that by Duty and Oath are oblig'd to preserve them.  
I shall not now go about to say how ill a Man Capt. *Willm* is,  
does so manifestly appear in this, and other of his Actions, that  
has sav'd me the labour of doing it.

But I shall make it obvious to the World, that what he has  
is but agreeable to the Practice of the Majority of the Commissioners  
of the Navy, who have either notoriously wronged the King, or  
all a long supported others that have done it.

But as I have charged three Commissions with making a Breach  
of their Duty and Truth, so I shall relate something in relation  
each Commission, yet no more than what has already (for the  
part) been laid before the Lords of the Admiralty upon  
(the hitherto sifted,) and what has not, I am ready to make  
appear by good and substantial Evidence, and shall be as brief as pos-  
sible in relating these things; and so only lay down the names  
the Crimes, and some of the Facts that have been committed  
each Commission; and afterwards give an Account by what  
Means I was prevented laying open these things the last  
of Parliament.

Yet the Matters were so transacted, that I cannot put them  
that Order I would, but shall place them in the best Method  
and first lay down the evil Practices committed in the King's Yards.

It is the general Practice in the King's Yards, for the Joiners  
and other Workmen, to be employ'd in making of Tables, Cases  
of Drawers, Scrutores, and other Goods, out of His Majesty's  
treasure, and this by Order of the Chief Officers of the said Yards.  
And the Officers do employ Men for making Models of Ships,





[illegible]

Works) some of which may be worth 2 or 300 Pounds, that are given away or sold. The Iron Work is weigh'd in to the King's use or thrice over; and it is the daily and open Practice of the Workmen and Labourers, to split new Timber and Plank for Fire, for the Officers of the Yards and themselves.

*This prov'd before the Lords of the Admiralty upon Oath.*

I shall also relate some Matters referring to the Commissioners of the Navy.

A certain Contract was made with a Merchant on behalf of the King for Stores for the Use of his Majesty's Navy, but the Goods delivered were not of half the Value as by Contract they ought to have been: Yet notwithstanding they were received by order of the \* Commissioner upon the place; but an Officer of Trust seeing grossly His Majesty was abus'd therein, would not admit of it: Whereupon which the Commissioner highly threatned him, and in some measure oblig'd him to a Compliance; which was to His Majesty's Damage two or three hundred Pounds.

*\* Captain Willshaw.*

Another Contract was made, and great part of the King's Timber brought into the Yard as Merchants Goods; which an Officer of the Yard observing, refus'd to receive: Whereupon a great Contest hapned between the said Officer, and the Commissioner and other Officers, who were all very angry with him that he should oppose the Matter; and never left the Affair till they had gain'd their End, which was to His Majesty's very great Loss.

Another fraudulent Contract was made on behalf of the King; wherein a Person's Hand was forged, (a \* Commissioner being concerned) but they were detected therein; yet His Majesty suffer'd for 200 Pound Damage; and had much more had it not been discovered. A great deal more of this nature might be recited, but I think there are sufficient Instances to convince all Men of the evil Practices of the Navy-board in reference to Contracts.

*\* Captain Willshaw.*

Not to proceed; Sometime after the Embezzlement of the King's Money in Portsmouth-Yard broke out, the Commissioners of the Navy were at the Admiralty-board; and then and there did approve of the Prosecution of such Persons as had embezzled the King's Money: tho before they had done what in them lay to prevent such Discoveries; and used their utmost Endeavour to ruin the Gentleman that was the occasion of bringing those Deeds of Darkness to Light, tho the Facts were so plain they could no longer be hid: But before that Matter came to trial, there were

*All prov'd upon Oath before the Lords of the Admiralty.*

far greater Discoveries; wherein most of the Officers of *Portsmouth* Yard were concerned, as likewise some Commissioners of the Navy (as has been related;) so that when the Trial at the *King's Bench* Bar came on, they appear'd in a body, in the face of Justice, bring off the Criminals (whose Prosecution they had before approv'd); which they effected by setting up a false Book of Loans, and thereby impos'd upon the Court and Jury, (then the Attorney General could do no less than bring a *Noli Prosequi* to stop all further Proceedings, His Majesty having been at vast Charge in that Prosecution and no good ensued upon it); so that there were three other Informations\*, which at that time were drop'd, and nothing done therein to this time.

\* Wherein a multitude of Persons were concerned as Offenders.

There's another Business also of the very same Nature: The Mayor of *Portsmouth* was fin'd 200 l. at *Winchester* Assizes for not returning the Recognizance in his hands: Upon which the Commissioner\* of *Portsmouth* sends an Attorney along with the Mayor to go after the Judge to *Salisbury*; where he interceded with the Judge in the Name and by the Order of the Commissioner to excuse the Fine, which was accordingly done; and the Commissioner bore all the Charge of that Journey; and the very original Note the Attorney gave him of the Charge, is now in the hands of the Lord of the Admiralty: So this Affair as well as the other fell, and never came to any thing.

\* Capt. Willshaw now Commissioner in the Straits.

All prov'd up on Oath before the Lords of the Admiralty.

I shall relate another Passage of near Kin to the foregoing: A certain Person here in Town, a Sail-maker by Trade, apply'd himself to Sir *Richard Flatlock* Comptroller of the Navy, and acquainted him that there were very great Embezzlements made of the King's Canvas, to that degree that it was a very great Injury to the Trade in general, by being undersold: And he told the Comptroller how and by what Means the Persons might be taken with the Goods upon them; and if he would grant him a Commission, he said he would undertake the Matter himself: And after near an hour's Discourse, Sir *Richard* slighted it, telling him, That Kings and Princes were born to be cheated; and so there was nothing done therein.

Prov'd upon Oath before a Commission of Council.

And for Satisfaction of the Navy-board, I can shew a large List of Seizures that have been made (no ways relating to the *Portsmouth* Business), yet no Prosecution either against Buyer or Seller.

But during these Contests, in reference to the Embezzlements of *Portsmouth* Yard, it must be acknowledged the Lords of the Admiralty

ally gave all imaginable Encouragement to such as were instrumental in those Discoveries, with assurance of their Favour; which they enjoyed so long as the Right Honourable the Earl of Pembroke, my Lord *Cornwallis* and Sir *Richard Onslow*, were in Commission; but when their Lordships and Sir *Richard* left that Board, the Scene soon chang'd, and the Interest of the Navy-board prevail'd: Yet in the end, notwithstanding all the ill Actions of the Commissioners of the Navy, their Lordships might have dismiss'd all such Officers their Employment (being under their jurisdiction) as appeared to be Criminal, and thereby given a great check to those horrid Embezzlements that were made; yet nothing was done therein: But on the contrary, the Commissioners of the Navy fell with great Violence upon those Gentlemen who had made those Discoveries, and suspended them their Employments; and there was Subordination endeavour'd and set on foot by a Commissioner \*, and other foul Practices used against them (too long here to insert) whereby to throw them out of their Employments; which after sometime they did effect, yet no Crime (but their Faithfulness to His Majesty and their Trust) could be prov'd against them: And the Lords of the Admiralty, who ought to have protected them from the Violence of the Navy-board, slighted them, and turn'd them off with all imaginable Scorn and Contempt; and, to add to their Affliction, many of the most notorious Criminals were preferr'd.

\* Captain  
Willshaw.

The Navy-board having by these foul and wicked Means crush'd all those Persons that had made any Discoveries of embezzled Stores, there must from thence consequently ensue infinite Embezzlements; and from that time I find not any Officer hath dar'd to oppose them, who have ever since acted as they please without Controul.

But to proceed; Sometime after these unjust Successes of the Navy-board, one Mr. *George Evers*, Shipwright, observing the great Abuses committed in the King's Yards by the Mens wasting their Time, and their daily Destruction of Timber and Plank, apply'd to the Lords of the Admiralty; and made a Proposal to them whereby to save His Majesty 100000*l.* or more *per Annum* in the building and repairing the Royal Navy; and gave such Demonstration and Reason for what he said, that the Proposal had a general Acceptation, (being printed, and dedicated to the King and Parliament;) yet notwithstanding, he met with little Encouragement (as will appear by the Journal he has kept) from the Admiralty-

board, being from time to time delayed : But after much Importunity and Waiting, was referred to the Navy-board, before whom he often offered to prove the great Destruction and Waste made of the King's Timber ; and at one time produced twelve Witnesses to prove the same, but they would hear but three of them, and very much ridicul'd what he offer'd, and threatned him with an Action of Scandal, whereby to cause him to desist ; which not prevailing, and he not being under their Jurisdiction, they found themselves oblig'd to make a Report, (it being then a Year and a half after he made his Proposal) which was transmitted to the Admiralty : But Mr. *Everett* was not permitted a Copy of it till half a Year after ; and tho' it's too long here to insert, yet it will appear how scandalous it was by the Memorial he deliver'd in answer to it, which is as followeth :

### *The humble Memorial of George Everett.*

*To the Lords of  
His Majesty's  
most Honourable  
Privy Council  
appointed a Com-  
mittee of Trade  
and Plantations.*

**T**HAT the said *George Everett* having received a Copy of the Navy-board's Report, which their Honours made to the Lords of the Admiralty in answer to my Proposals ; and finding the same very large, and full of Reflections, Prevarications, and manifest Falshoods, a full Answer to which I have drawn up ready to produce : Yet I cannot conceive they would presume to offer such a Report to the Admiralty, or this most Honourable Board, unless with a Design to bring this matter to so great a Bulk, with long Reports, Answers and Replies, as to make your Lordships weary in examining into my Proposal, tho' of so great Advantage to the Publick Good : Therefore to save your Lordships much needless trouble, I shall here recite only three Particulars in the Navy-board's Report ; which if true, my Proposals ought wholly to be set aside, and I to suffer worse Punishment than the Navy-board have already threatned to inflict upon me ; which three Particulars are as followeth.

1. The Navy-board about the middle of their Report, express themselves in these words :

2. *What Care is taken to prevent the Making and Carrying out any unlawful Ships, the Instructions before recited have inform'd your Ho-*

*onours,*



more, which is hoped is duly executed by the Officers; but if any of them are wanting therein, we should be glad to know it, being altogether willing to punish or reward, well knowing that on those Hinges hang the good Management of the Affairs of the Navy.

And about the next Leaf they also say these words:

And in case in his Observations any of them have acted other ways, (meaning the Officers of the Yards, or others, in embezzling the Materials of old Ships) and he had thought fit to have discover'd, and made it appear to us, he would certainly have met with suitable Rewards, and Encouragement for it.

To which I answer, That I never declar'd the whole was embezzled, but a great part of it; and in order to prove this, I did on the Fourteenth of May last, lay before the Commissioners of the Navy a Note containing the Names of near forty Witnesses to prove these and other Miscarriages committed in His Majesty's Yards: Which being read, their Honours answer'd, that the Surveyor was not in Town, and that the same could not be determined without a full Board.

After this I received a Letter from the Navy-board in these words:

Mr. Everett;

The Comptroller, and some other of the Members of this Board, being suddenly to go out of Town again; and we being desirous to do something in your Business before we part, do desire you to be with us on Saturday Morning next at Nine a Clock, and to bring with you the Persons you have named, that can make appear the Abuses in His Majesty's Yards mentioned in your Paper.

We are your affectionate Friends,

Tho. Willshaw,

C. Sargisson,

D. Liddell,

John Hill,

George St. Lee.

Office 20 Jan, 1694.

Pursuant to this Order, I did on the 23<sup>d</sup> of June (being Saturday) attend the Navy-board in the Morning, with twelve Persons, most of them Master-Shipwrights, in order to prove the

said

‘ said irregular and extravagant Practices : But two of them and my self, being only admitted, we did testify part thereof, and had a clamorous Debate of near three hours, till by degrees the Commissioners all departed, leaving one of the Evidences in the Board-Room, without order of withdrawing, or farther attending.

‘ This my Attendance was the 23<sup>d</sup> of *June*, and the Navy-board’s Report is dated the 27<sup>th</sup> of *June*, which is four days after; wherein their Honours pretended they had not heard of any of these Mis-carriages.

‘ The third Particular is near the end of their Report; wherein the Commissioners of the Navy express themselves in these words :

‘ *Nevertheless this Wiseaker says there may be 100000 l. a Year saved of what is now expended in the Navy in Shipwrightery, and Timber and Plank, if his Regulations, as he calls them, were put in execution; tho upon our computing the whole Charge of such Workmanship for all the six Yards together, with the Expence of Timber and Plank since the War, (which we have taken the pains to collect) we do not find the same amount to that Sum one Year with another.*

‘ To which I answer, that this is a home Assertion, and strikes at the very foundation of my Proposal, and would represent me as a mad Man, that disturbs your Lordships and the Nation with Proposals to save 100000 l. a Year out of a less Sum : But I question not but to confute the Navy-board under their own hands, and bring them as Witnesses against themselves. Therefore I most humbly pray, that the Commissioners of Accompts may be directed to lay before your Lordships an Account of the annual Charge of Building and Repairing the Royal Navy since the beginning of the War; and likewise to direct the Lords of the Admiralty to lay before your Lordships a true Copy of the Estimate for the same Service, which their Lordships laid before the House of Commons for the Year ensuing : For I may presume to assert, that the Building and Repairing the Royal Navy, has for the Years past, and will for the Year ensuing, cost the King above four hundred thousand Pound *per Annum* : All which your Lordships will find attested under the Commissioners of the Navy’s own Hands, if your Lordships will please to send for the aforementioned Accompts and Estimate.

May it please your Lordships, if herein I have said that which is false of the Navy-board, I am content to lose all the Labour and Expence I have been at, and that my Proposals should be wholly rejected as false and scandalous: But if on the contrary, their Honours Report proves to be as I have here represented it, viz. full of Falsties and Prevarications, to weary and impose upon your Lordships to set aside Proposals that may be so beneficial to the Publick Good and Safety of the Nation; then I shall humbly leave to your Lordships Justice, what Censure to pass on the Navy-board, for making such a Report to obstruct the King's Service; which is sign'd by no less than eight of their Members.

*\* Their Lordships were pleas'd to look upon the Navy-board's Report to be scandalous.*

George Everett.

† R. Haddock,  
E. Dummer,  
G. Sergison,  
Tho. Willhaw,  
D. Liddall,  
J. Hill,  
S. Pett,  
G. S. Loes.

Febr. 2yth 1697

There's no rational Man but will conclude this Proposal of Mr. Everett's practicable, tho the Navy-board took indirect Means to wile it.

In short, the Design of his Proposal is no other but to root out those Evils which Custom, and the Corraption of the Age hath produced; and no ways to alter the Oeconomy of the Navy, (as is intimated in the Dords of the Admiralty, and Commissioners of the Navy's Reports upon his Proposal :) So that had it been put in practice, by this time His Majesty might have sav'd three or four hundred thousand Pound. And for the Commissioners of the Navy to alter the Building and Repairing of the Royal Navy did not annually amount to 100000 £ (which plainly appears to be a prevarication with Mr. Everett's words) when they knew at the same time the Estimate given into the House of Commons for the Wear and Tare of the Royal Navy for this present Year, was 780000 £. as appears by the Votes of the House of Commons, is a most notorious Falshood. One would therefore think, any Man that had the least spark of Honour or Justice in him, would have been ashamed to sign such a Report: And why the Lords of the Admiralty should keep it so long by them, and not acquaint His Majesty therewith, I know not; however, it's plain it was never intended it should have seen the light, it being forced from them, and the design being to weary out the Man, that he might waste and spend his Substance, and so be forced to decline. A most effectual Way indeed, and sufficient warning to all Men to take care how they

offer.

\* Before a Com-  
mittee of Council.

*The Sailors be-  
ing inhumanly and  
barbarously treat-  
ed, is the only  
true Cause why  
they so much de-  
cline the Publick  
Service.*

offer any thing for the Publick Service, tho never so advantage-  
Besides this Proposal, Mr. *Everett* hath made appear, by a clear  
Witnesses, the great Embezzlements made in the King's Navy,  
and proved \* many things in the face of the Commissioners of  
Navy, and made them eat and drink Shame : Yet still they stand  
firm as a Rock, and say they have done no evil.

The poor Sailors that venture their Lives and Limbs to  
their King and Country, and who are one of the greatest Bulwarks  
of the Kingdom, have been all along most inhumanly and bar-  
barously treated, and they and their Families reduced to a miser-  
able and deplorable State, particularly by the wicked Practices of  
taking Queries and Runs upon their pay : For amongst those  
numbers that are set on Shore sick, those that die, and others that  
continue sick above thirty days, and those sent to the London Hos-  
pitals for cure, who are thereby disabled to return to their Ships,  
are for the most part made run : Others, whose Ships are lost  
before recovery, having gone on Board other Ships, are put  
run from the Ship they were sent from ; and if a Seaman is trans-  
ferred from Ship to Ship, and by that means has serv'd on Board  
three or five Ships in the Navy, yet if he happens to be prick'd run  
the last Ship he serv'd in, he shall of consequence be prick'd run  
all the preceding Ships. By this means a Query or Run takes away  
a Man's Pay worse than an Execution ; and by the present Practice  
no Seaman, or his poor Family, is at any certainty of having the  
Benefit of the King's Pay ; for it is in the Power of the Captain,  
Captain's Clerk, Purser, Clerk of the Cheque, Muster-Master,  
Clerks in the Navy-Office, when ever they please, to put a Run  
Query upon any Seaman's Pay, without giving Reason for so doing,  
or the Name of the Person that put it : So that for these black  
practices of Robbery, no one is liable to be called to account ; but the poor  
Sailer is kept wholly in the dark, and he or his Wife may wait at  
the Navy-Office Month after Month, with Petitions to no purpose,  
till he has spent all his Substance : And when he begins to talk  
of his being thus cheated and robbed, he is threatned to be tried  
for his Life as a Mutineer. So that the Barbarity the poor Sailors do  
have suffered during this War, is unexpressible : The Blood of the  
families are poured out as Sacrifices to the Covetousness of those  
those whose Duty and Place it is to be their Guardians and Pro-  
tectors. By all which it's plain, that whatever good Laws may  
be made for the Increase and Encouragement of Seamen, will prove  
effectual so long as these Practices continue.

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These Grievances have been at large set forth in Print by one *Hodges*, and a Scheme of their true Cause laid bare in'd before the Admiralty by Mr. *Trevor* in a Letter, and a Remedy for 'em propos'd in Writing to the Admiralty by Mr. *Gibson* by order of a Committee of Council; and why there's nothing done, this Fraud and Robbery still practis'd and supported, is what reason can be given for.

Since neither Mr. *Hodges's*, Mr. *Trevor's*, nor Mr. *Gibson's* Papers are mention'd, have ever been exploded; the Lords of the Admiralty were so fully convinced of these Cheats, that their Lordships did by Warrant under their Hands in *December* last, appoint Mr. *Gibson* to receive all Informations of Abuses in Payment of Sea-Tickets, which doubtless would have put a stop to these wicked Practices: Notwithstanding which, the said Mr. *Gibson* has never been suffered to act, and so their Lordships good Intentions have been wholly defeated: But why their Lordships have not been able to put their own Orders in execution, is another strange thing

I shall now lay down Mr. *Trevor's* Letter, (before mention'd) which the Reader will be satisfied as to the Humour and Temper of these Gentlemen, and after what rate things are and have been managed on: It is as followeth.

*My Lords,*

Having consider'd your Lordships Commands (to wit), That I should lay before your Honourable Board a Proposal to prevent false Tickets and Powers for the future, I find my self oblig'd humbly to represent the following Particulars, in order to satisfy your Lordships therein so far as I may at present, not being willing to take on my Shoulders (who am so much loaded already) such a burden as an effectual Proposal to that purpose shall be: Therefore to let your Lordships see I am no Stranger to that Practice, such Proceedings have been open'd to me long since by Officers of several Ships; one of which, whose Consequence was more tender, I remember told me, He trembled when he open'd the Ships Books, and considered what the Consequence of a Discovery of this Practice might amount to; and gave me several Instances, telling me he must pass them or be ruin'd; and that he was well inclin'd to lay down his Employment to be

no longer under such Circumstances: Others declaring there was a Trade in fashion, and they would take share in it.

Your Lordships must find large Demonstrations of it by what has passed, as well relating to the *Mary* as other Ships: The Distemper so well known, a Proposal for the effectual preventing of it for the future carries no other difficulty with it than the Burden of the Interest against it, and might at any time have been redressed by just Men of no boasted Skill in Business. And, my Lords, I think there are two at hand from the nature of the Crimes, and their being carry'd on so long: One of which I shall open to your Lordships, because 'tis pertinent (in my weak Judgment) to the other Matters I lately laid before your Honourable Board. For the second, I pray leave to withhold it for the foregoing Reason; and because, as I would not plow with any Man's Heifer but my own, so am I not blameable to secure to my self if I can, some part of my dear-bought Experience, till it shall be my Duty to reform what I know to be amiss, and can therein be supported.

Now, my Lords, it's most manifest that these Practices are wholly carried on by a Combination of the Officers on Board Ships, (as is alledged) who cover these Crimes to avoid their own ruin, many of them to my Knowledge detesting the Trade: It being well known what is, and has been the Practice of the Navy-Office, that if any such Tickets and Powers happen not to be in the hands of any relating to that Office, yet such may be found with their under-hand Agents, who tho of little Substance of their own, yet can buy up three or four thousand Pound value in Tickets, that being the only way such Frauds can long pass, and such true or false meet with no Obstruction: But if any Complaint happens, 'tis no easy matter to have Right done, which is as plain as the Forgery in *Gawler's Bills*\*, tho committed in the Navy-Office, nevertheless gave occasion to the Commissioners of the Navy to promote the very Actor to be Clerk of the Cheque at *Sheerness*, to avoid other Matters like to break upon him, where he may carry on the Trade at pleasure.

And if this be the case, which I presume does fully appear, the most effectual Remedy against the Disease is to remove the Cause, I mean such of the Commissioners of the Navy who have advocated, and passed by knowingly, and with design, notorious Crimes already discovered; and that done, there will remain no difficulty

\* *Prov'd before  
the Lords of the  
Admiralty.*

difficulty to form what must put a period to these Cheats, and all ground of such lamentable Complaints as your Lordships and the Government have been long troubled with.

All which arise from the barbarous Usage the innocent Subject have had, and a want of Tendency to their Complaints, and from false and designed Representations of Matters; the Guilty being protected, excused, and carried through most scandalous and obvious Offences against the Law, and afterwards encouraged: which your Lordships find to be the Practice of the Commissioners of the Navy, by what I have long since and now lately laid before you; in particular, that of the Testimony of the Town-Clerk of *Portsmouth*, wherein your Lordships find a Commissioner, after having used his utmost Skill to stifle so necessary a Discovery, paying the very Charges of disappointing the Government, and getting off a Fine of 200 £. the better to conceal his own and others Crimes.

Now, my Lords, I must pray leave to relate, as well for the Information of such of your Members as were not of your Board, as for reminding such as were at the opening of my Case, and on the Proceeds of the Design against me by the Navy-board; they so less earnestly justified the well and regular Management of *Portsmouth*-Yard, than furiously prosecuted me, the better to cover the Miscarriages I insisted on: In which it also lies prov'd before your Honourable Board, I rejected an Offer of two hundred Pounds Bribe to pass them, the Person who made me that Tender (with other Accommodations) being nevertheless protected and preferred by them, tho' it's plain both he and his Brother have from nothing advanced themselves to great Estates by such undue Proceedings: and I was not only advi'd if I desisted in that Matter, I should be quieted in my Employ, but in the very heat of the Prosecution against me the Expedient to silence all that Affair, was propos'd to me, to bring Capt. *Witham* to one of my Friends, and set him to rights there: Which being out of my power, it was carried on with the more Heat and Resolution against me: And at the opening of the Embezzlements there, which I had all along complained of, then did meer Shame (for I cannot take it any otherways) occasion the Navy-board to own the Miscarriages of *Portsmouth*-Yard to be great, and to recommend me by the Mouth of Mr. *Sergison* for Encouragement.

Which was very surprizing after a Design grounded on most palpable Perjury, and so scandalous a Representation thereof, yet worse than the Perjury it self, from that Board.

And after all this to find several of the Commissioners of the Navy, in the face of Justice, bringing off Criminals by a Sham-Book of Loans, and thereby encouraging such shameful Actions, and persecuting such as appear'd on the King's Part, even to the Death and Ruin of some, must surely aggravate these great Miscarriages, when it so plainly appears the King is thus cheated by Authority.

I come now, my Lords, to the particular Crimes your Lordships have before you; which the Commissioners of the Navy have stifled or forgiven, contrary to Law; it being a common Practice, and of which there are not wanting yet more Instances.

And next to the Discovery made by the Rope-makers, in which the poor Men think they have made a fair step to their own Ruin; however, if it be follow'd it may put a great stop to that Trade.

But, my Lords, so long as there are Commissioners intrusted, who on such Occasions brand Discoverers for Informers, Rogues, and Villains, (tho they pursue Orders and Instructions) and encourage their being treated as the worst of Men, setting up false and scandalous Informations against them, what end can be put to these Miscarriages? Or till there is less Pride and Design at the Navy-Office, more Honesty, and a Readiness to hear, and relieve or satisfy all Complaints, without the accustomed Formality and Extorts of Money, with Attendance Month after Month to no purpose, it's not to be imagined any effectual Remedy can be applied. I am now humbly to pray that your Lordships will please to make report \* of what I have laid before your Honourable Board; upon which I depend your Lordships in Justice will take occasion to commend me for my Services, in being the Original and only Instrument in the way of my Duty, hardy enough to break through and bring on these Discoveries, and exposing my self and Family in the Execution of your Orders, to the great Persecution and Pressure we have long lain under; that

\* To a Committee of Council.



that to my Integrity may not effect the Ruin that has been industriously endeavour'd by the Trading Multitude; Upon,

My Lords,

Your Lordships most faithful humble Servant,

John Trevor.

I shall now give farther Demonstration of evil Practices in relation to the Navy, by referring to what was published by order of the Lords of the Admiralty, as appears by the *Gazette* of the 7th of January 1694, which is as followeth:

*Whereas in pursuance of an Advertisement in the Gazette of the 10th of December last, a Paper sign'd R. W. has been sent to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, offering to discover several Frauds and illegal Proceedings relating to Seamen's Pay, in case His Majesty shall be graciously pleas'd to extend His Pardon to the said R. W. and others that come in with him to make out the said Discoveries, for as much as they have been concerned in the said Offences: His Majesty being mov'd thereupon, is pleas'd to promise His gracious Pardon to the said R. W. and those concern'd with him in the said Offences; Provided they make out the said Discoveries, and that they have not been guilty of any thing of the like Nature before.*

There are four or five of these Advertisements in the *Gazette*, one of them by order of the Commissioners of the Navy, but all of them to the same purpose: And any Man that has but half an Eye may see a great deal of Fallacy in them, and that they have on the face of Justice, and were never intended to make Discoveries, but prevent them; as appears by the Clause at last, and that they have not been guilty of any thing of the like Nature before. Yet pretty; there's no Man living but must conclude, that those whose Conscience will permit them to act such things, have long justified them; and 'tis not probable they will ever make Discoveries unless they can sit down secure, and have an ample and full Pardon: Therefore this does but encourage all those that are guilty of these Practices; to proceed in the same, none being secure that shall go about to detect them.

Two of these Advertisements I read at the Bar of the House of Commons the last Session of Parliament, (being order'd to appear there, as you will see by what ensues) and the whole House was pleas'd to acquiesce in what I said: And there's no Man so weak, but knows it to be the Practice of all Governments, fully to pardon Offenders (that make Discoveries) who have committed any Crime, even to the highest nature; and not only so, but oftentimes reward them, of which we have sufficient Witness by Persons now living: And it matters not what end he has to himself that makes the Discovery, whether it be thro' Good-will or Ill-will, Love or Hatred, so it conduce to the Publick Good; it's then the Interest of the Government to give him all due Encouragement.

And until we come to act so, we can never think to prosper, but be in danger of ruin. Indeed as things are now managed, they look with an ill face; for notwithstanding all the great Pretensions to Loyalty, and the boasted Skill of some Persons, yet I say there have been great Discoveries laid before the Lords of the Admiralty long before these Advertisements, (in reference to the wronging His Majesty, and the poor Sailors) but no Prosecution of the Persons that committed the Facts.

*Commissioners  
for Sick and  
Wounded.*

But I fear I have dwelt too long upon these Matters, so shall proceed to the Commissioners for the Sick and Wounded: Against whom, one Mr. *Boston* exhibited a Complaint, and twice prov'd them guilty, so far as was sufficient to have given some of them their Passport (as they have done to many a poor Sailor) into the other World.

When he first brought his Articles against them, they were by His Majesty's Order referred to the Examination of the Lords of the Admiralty; and by their Lordships they were found guilty of what they were charg'd with: Upon which they petition'd His Majesty for a Rehearing at the Council-board; which was granted, and they were again prov'd guilty of Breach of Trust, &c. as appears by the Council's Report. And besides these Reports, there are other Matters \* of dangerous consequence sworn and prov'd against them, which have long lain dormant in the hands of the Commissioners of Accompts; yet notwithstanding all this, these Men are still continued in Commission, and Mr. *Boston* deem'd the Offender.

*\* Whereby much  
innocent Blood  
has been spill'd,  
and his Majesty's  
Treasure wast'd;  
but they are too  
long here too  
import.*

I could lay down more things of this nature ; but I am even a weary of raking in all this Filth, which must needs stink in the Nostrils of all good Men.

But I would not have any one now conclude, that all the Lords of the Admiralty, Commissioners of the Navy, and the Commissioners for the Sick and Wounded, are guilty of these things, for I verily believe otherways : Yet in the mean time, I can do no less than charge the whole Board, for in these Cases the Major includes the Minor ; and so there's no honest Gentleman can be any ways meanly for what I have done, or use Endeavours to prevent the further Examination thereof, but promote it, thereby to remove the Scandal he seems now to lie under ; for when there comes a Discrimination, Truth will appear, as we have an Instance in the late Commissioners for Licensing Hackney-Coaches.

And now from all that has been related, it can no ways seem strange how some Men have arriv'd to such vast Estates : And if any Man impartially weighs the whole Matter, it must even astonish him to consider how it's possible any Government should be able to support it self so long as we have under such Corruptions, and at the same time have so great a War upon it : Indeed we only owe the Preservation of His Majesty's Sacred Person and Government, to the Providence of God. However, the Nation feels the sensible Effects of these Corruptions, by the many great and public Debts : But I shall leave those Gentlemen who have been the cause thereof, to the Justice of God and the Laws of the Nation, not doubting but they will meet with their due Reward, and be oblig'd to disgorge their ill-gotten Goods.

I think we may now fairly conclude, (without any breach of Character) that the Commissioners of the Navy, and their Accomplices, really make a Prey of the Publick ; and withal, not doubt but the Contracts made on behalf of the King, are for the most part fraudulent ; which has prompted them all along to protect those Criminals that have embezzled the Publick Stores, (nothing else could induce them to do it, unless they really design'd to ruin the Government, which then must be confessed to have been a most essential way ;) so that the Navy, which has been heretofore our Security, is now become a Gulf to swallow the Publick Treasure.

If any Man endeavours to lay these Evils open, he must undergo infinite Difficulties and Hardships, having a corrupt Party to contend withal ; who by Time and Interest have knit and link'd themselves

selves so fast together, that he's certainly crush'd by the Navy-board, or their Adherents, or otherways expos'd to the World (as I have been) as a Fool or Madman, or both; and render'd to His Majesty as a vain idle Person, and look'd upon with as much Contempt and Scorn, as if he were the worst of Criminals.

I must confess I do not look upon this ill Treatment to be an Act of the Government, but that it arrives from the same Fountain as the rest of the Evils have done: nevertheless, such Proceedings are a Dishonour to the Nation and Government, and may at last prove fatal to them.

Some have assum'd to themselves a Power of dispensing with the Law: Tho we have good and wholesom Laws that are not put in execution, as those against Embezzlements, &c. yet those that endeavour to have them put in practice, do even run themselves upon their own Destruction, as is seen by experience; he that discovers any Breach of those Laws, being in far more danger than those that committed the Facts, which is highly pernicious, and strikes at the very foundation of the Government.

I shall now relate something I have cause to remember, and which is not altogether foreign to the Matter in hand. At the first opening of the Session of Parliament, begun and held in the fourth and fifth Year of his Majesty's Reign, I published a Book, entitled, *England's Glory Reviv'd*; wherein I propos'd an Act of Tunnage for laying six Pence *per Tun* upon all Coasters, &c. and likewise laid open the great Evil that attended the laying Embargo's upon Shipping, (which had been done every Year during the War until that time) giving full Demonstration there was no cause for it; and so there has been none laid since, tho far greater occasion than at any time before.

All these Matters here related, (with some others) I would have laid open the last Session of Parliament; and in order to it, declar'd in Print I could discover 2 or 300 thousand Pounds of the Publick Money that had been embezzled: Whereupon I was order'd to appear at the Bar of the House of Commons, which I did; and there declar'd the same, so I had the Assistance of that Honourable House: Upon which I was ordered to withdraw; and in a quarter of an hour's time one of the Commissioners for Taking and Stating the Publick Accounts, came to me in the *Lobby*, and told me I had given great Satisfaction to the House; and that I was referr'd to their Board,

Board, where I should be heard with all imaginable Fairness: But several Gentlemen told me, that let my Cause be never so just, I must expect to be trick'd by that Board, none being more corrupt than they: Which seem'd strange, considering the care taken in Parliament in the Choice of those Persons; and withal it being well known they had good Fortunes, I thought it morally impossible they should ever be so corrupted as to act any thing against the Publick Good; yet, to my great Surprise, I found my self mistaken.

But to proceed; in obedience to the Order of the House, I waited on the Commissioners for Stating the Publick Accounts, and laid before them the great Injury done to the Souldiery by Agents and others in the Clothing of the Army, to the Discouragement of the Souldiery and Hindrance of His Majesty's Service; and then would have laid before them the Corruptions of the Navy, aforementioned, but they would not receive it, all the Arguments I could use being to no purpose. All the Answer I could obtain, was, that I did not lie before that Board; and by way of Derision, they said they might as well examine a Justice of Peace why he did not do Justice, as to enquire into those Matters: But with Submission, they should have pursued the Order of the House of Commons, which was to receive what I should lay before them, and make report thereof with all convenient speed; and not made themselves Judges what was fit for them to receive: for as His Majesty and the Nation was injur'd, and the Publick Money and Stores embezzled, it was their Duty to have heard me, and left the House of Commons to be Judge. But they refusing to hear me, put me to such a Humiliation, that for sometime I knew not what to do: and fearing I should do little in the House of Commons that Session, I resolv'd to petition the House of Peers, and acquainted some of the Witnesses with my Intention, who very well approv'd on't. Whereupon I drew up a Petition with five Heads thereunto annex'd, and presented it to a Noble Lord; which his Lordship was pleas'd readily to receive and deliver to the House of Peers; where it was receiv'd with much Freedom and Readiness by their Lordships, and forthwith order'd to be read. And that the ensuing Matter may be the better understood, I have here set down a true Copy of the same, which is as followeth.

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To



*To the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament  
Assembled,*

*The humble Petition of Robert Grosfield,*

*Sheweth,*

**T**HAT your Petitioner having lately dedicated and presented to your Lordships a Book entitled, *Great Britain's Taxes*; setting forth the great Abuses committed in the Government by Persons in Places of Trust, and also the Embezzlement of the publick Treasure, to the great Hazard of the common Safety of the Nation: And your Petitioner having in the Paper annex'd drawn up some part of the said Miscarriages and Grievances that the Nation now labours under, relating to the Royal Navy, and being ready by good and substantial Evidence to prove the same before this most Honourable House:

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays that your Lordships will please to hear and examine the said Grievances, that the Offenders may have such Punishment, and the great Numbers that are oppressed such Relief, as to your Lordships Wisdom shall seem meet. And your Petitioner shall ever pray, &c.

That the present Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen, and Exchanging Prisoners at War, (depending on the Admiralty) not regarding Instructions, or the Good of the Government, have committed gross Enhorinities; as Holding or Conniving at an unlawful Correspondence with the French, and Wronging both the King and Subject in their Accounts, with other great Miscarriages: All which has been about a Year since laid in Writing before the Secretary of State by one Mr. *Estlin*, and by the King's Command examin'd before the Lords of the Admiralty, &c. And it will appear, that the said Commission

has



has been very injurious to the poor Sailors in particular, and  
 very detrimental to the Government in general.

That the Lords of the Admiralty, and Commissioners of the  
 Navy, have acted contrary to the Publick Good, by countenanc-  
 ing, supporting, and preferring Criminals; and on the contrary,  
 persecuting the Discoverers, and turning just Men out of their  
 Offices.

That their Lordships have had great Discoveries laid before  
 them of Embezzlements, and other great Frauds committed in the  
 King's Yards, attended with Forgery and Perjury.

That it is manifest some of the Commissioners of the Navy  
 have in that Office advanced themselves from Salaries of 30 *l.*  
 to vast Estates, having passed great Frauds, and total-  
 ly discouraged the Discovery of embezzled Stores, to the great  
 loss of the Publick Treasure.

That it has been a long Practice in the Navy to make out  
 false Tickets and Powers, suspending and delaying the poor Sail-  
 ors in their just Payments, to the general Discouragement of  
 them, and Starving their Families.

Upon the Reading of this Petition, Mr. *Baker* and I were call'd  
 to the Bar of the House, to know if we could make good what I  
 had set forth, (in reference to the first Head): Which we assert-  
 ed, in a little time their Lordships were pleas'd to order me to  
 give a List of my Witnesses, which I did in part, and so pro-  
 ceed to the Examination of some of them upon the first Head,  
 which was done with all imaginable Fairness. But there being  
 many Depositions, and other Papers in the hands of the Commis-  
 sioners of Accounts, which I desired might be transmitted to the  
 House of Peers: They thereupon sent their Secretary with some  
 Letters, who said the Depositions were long, and would be so vo-  
 luminous as they had not leisure to draw them out: So begged the  
 House they might have the Examination of the Matter: Which  
 was soon granted by their Lordships, and an Order accordingly is-  
 su'd out, bearing date the 20th of *March*, for their taking the Exa-  
 mination of the first Head; and for them to make their Observa-  
 tions upon the same; and to transmit both to the House of Peers.  
 And by another Order of the 21st of *March*, they were order'd to  
 take the Examination of the second and third Heads, and then to  
 transmit the same to the House.

But when I came to understand that the Commissioners of Accounts had drawn this Matter to them again, which they had before rejected, I had just cause to fear they had a Design to prevent the Discovery of all these evil Practices; yet how to help my self I knew not, not knowing how corrupt that Board might be: All which put me to a great stand, foreseeing I should be baffled.

But I cannot omit relating one remarkable Passage, which is worthy of Observation: Upon the Reading my Petition in the House of Peers, and Order being given to call me to the Bar of the House, and a Door-keeper calling me with a loud Voice, one of the Commissioners of the Publick Accounts then accidentally passing by, and hearing my Name call'd, met me in the Painted Chamber just as I was going into the House, (an honest Gentleman, only has wanted Resolution to withstand the Charms of these *Sorcerers*); who seem'd to be in great Confusion and Disorder of Mind, and was taken with such a Fit of Trembling as *Belshazzar* was when he saw the Hand-writing upon the Wall, not being able to hold one Joint still; and asked me if I accus'd the Justice of their Board? But I soon put him out of his pain by assuring him I did not; only I did seek for Relief and Justice, which I could not obtain at their Board.

That we may see when Men are surprized, and a Guilt attends their Actions, how all their little Arts and Intrigues fail them.

But to return; Finding my self oblig'd to proceed with these Gentlemen the Commissioners of Accounts, Mr. *Baker* and I waited on one of them at his House, whom we knew to be a leading Man at that Board; and acquainted him that we had not been well treated by their Board before, yet hoped we might now have things fairly examined. He bad Mr. *Baston* (whose Business was first to come on) not trouble himself with what was past, he should be fairly treated; for, says he, we'll take care to put our Finger upon the right place, (that was his Expression). Which I must confess they did to the purpose, but to a wrong end, having thro' the whole Course of this Examination shew'd much Injustice and Partiality; for when they went upon the Examination of the first Head, they brought three Informations (I can call them by no other name) against Mr. *Baston*; the Consequence of the first being High-Treason, and put him upon his Oath to clear himself from the other two: And when I waited on these Gentlemen first, being the 23<sup>d</sup> of *March*, I desir'd that the Witnesses as to the second

and

and third Heads, might have Precepts issued out for them, many of them being in the Country at a great distance: Upon which the Board did assure me they would take care it should be done; and as we proceeded upon the first Head, I desiring to know whether the Witnesses were order'd to appear in relation to the second and third Head, was several times answer'd, Care was taken therein: but found it otherways, there being no Precepts issued out for any Witnesses in the Country till the 12th of April: Yet during the time of examining the first Head, the Board sent for Mr. Trever in Town, who was a Witness to the second and third Head; and causing them to be read, asked him what he knew concerning them? He said he knew them to be true, and that they would be prov'd by good and substantial Evidence, and that things would appear to be much blacker than they were represented: Upon which they seem'd to be well pleas'd, and upon the 18th of June we began to examine Witnesses upon the second and third Head, and ended the 10th of the same Month: the Board declaring they had so much Business upon them, they could proceed no farther in relation of Parliament. So there was little Progress made there: the most material Witnesses not being examin'd: But during the examination of these things, the Board did what in them lay to clear the whole Affair; and one of the Commissioners who said he lay his Finger upon the right place, affirm'd the whole Matter was but a Contrivance of Mr. Brew's, and nothing in it. I acquainted Mr. Trever with it: who afterwards told the Commissioners that a Gentleman of that Board had said that those Articles I had brought were a Contrivance of his: He said whoever did so acted very unworthily, for that it was none of his doing; and when he took his Oath, saying he had laid his Matters elsewhere: he never told them, the Articles were true if they had but a mind to hear them: Upon which, the whole Board was silent, not one making any Reply; and the Gentleman who spoke the words laid down his Head as if he had been asleep, not that he valued what was spoken, but his Conscience smote him.

After these Things remain'd without any further notice, till July 15th, when I receiv'd a Letter from their Secretary, requiring me to be at the Office the 18th: Where I did appear, and sent in my Name to the Board: Upon which, their Secretary came to me with a Message; which I did not think fit to receive from him, so sent in my Name again, desiring to know if they had any further Com-

\* Some Persons  
have left the good  
old Way, and  
made new Paths  
to themselves;  
first crush a thou-  
sand of their E-  
missaries, spread  
abroad he can  
prove nothing  
yet we see Time  
and Patience  
bring Truth to  
light, to the  
Shame and Dis-  
honour of its  
Repugnants.

Commands. Whereupon I was call'd in, and told by the Chairman that if I knew of any Persons that were guilty of any Crime in relation to those Articles I had brought, that were not within Majesty's late Act of Grace, if I would say it before that Board, it should be heard: This was twice repeated to me, for fear I should forget it.

But now, with these Gentlemen's leave, neither they nor I have any thing to do with the Matter, as to judge who was pardon'd and who was not: therefore this was only an Evasion to prevent the farther opening thereof: for as the Articles were brought before the Act of Grace was pass'd, so with Submission it was their duty to have reveal'd the whole Information; and if any Persons were afterwards found to be criminal, and within the Act of Grace, were sufficient for them to plead it; and then the Nation might know and see who it was that abus'd them for so many Years running, and for the future take care to prevent the like Evils.

But this Method taken by these Gentlemen, was a Means to overthrow all Discoveries of this kind; and the Kingdom might be cheated, and kept as much in the dark as it has been hitherto.

For should I have proceeded only upon some part, it would have appear'd but a lame obscure Business, (especially as it might have been manag'd by them;) so in course it would be thrown out and rejected by the House of Peers as a Matter frivolous and idle: and if I did not proceed, it were still the same. (I having six Months time to do it in) their Lordships might then with a great deal of Justice throw it out; and after that no Punishment would be thought too great for me.

Therefore these Gentlemen have put me upon a Necessity of publishing these things; not only in reference to my own Safety, but to Justice to my Native Country: And I am sorry they, of all Men, should not behave themselves more like Englishmen, having as long had the Character of being worthy Patriots of their Country.

For if we may judge of things by the Actions of these Gentlemen and others, it's a grand Question, whether there's any such thing as Religion, or we have any Laws or no? And by the same Reason, whether I am a Man or a Woman? But let us not neglect our selves, for we must never expect to prosper until we make Duty, and not Interest, the Rule of our Actions.

And altho' God has been pleas'd to give Success to his Majesty's Arms this last Campaign, yet it can be no Argument for the Continuance

of these Corruptions, thereby to oppress the Nation and gratify the Appetite of particular Persons; Matters being still dubious, the War not being brought to a period; but the Event thereof uncertain, and the Necessities of the Government apparently great, before we can no ways infer from thence the War will have a happy Issue; but may rather justly conclude, in the end God will punish us if we maintain and support such Cruelty and Oppression. Notwithstanding, if by these evil Practices the Nation should be drawn into a Civil War, (which is no unreasonable Supposition, but what we have just cause to fear, considering what a Faction we have in the very Bowels of us, which these Corruptions nourish, and from whence they gain Strength;) none probably will be more ready to draw their Sword in defence of their Country, than the Authors and Abettors of these Corruptions: From hence we may see the Frailty of Humane Nature, and the miserable Effects of Pride, Ambition and Covetousness, which darken the Understandings of Men, while they make such eager pursuit after Riches; and it's that which hath produced all these great Evils.

These things are passed over with Silence, the Nation can have no Security, by reason it will embolden Offenders, and excite and incite others to commit the like Crimes and Iniquities: For it's only Experience, the Generality of Mankind are more inclined to follow Example than Precept; but the fear of the Law and Punishment to ensue, puts a Bridle upon the Appetite and Desires of Men, and keeps them closer to their Duty than the Dictate of Conscience; and that excellent Saying of *Polybius* ought never to be forgotten: *Thalysse* (says he) that Nature her self has constituted Truth as a sacred Duty, which is to be ador'd by Mankind; and that she has more greater force than any of the rest: for being oppos'd, as she is on all sides, and Appearances of Truth so often passing for the Thing it self, in many plausible Falshoods; yet by her wonderful Operation she insinuates her self into the Minds of Men, sometimes exerting her Strength immediately, and sometimes lying hid in Darkness for Length of Time; but at length glazes through it, and appears triumphant over Falshood.

\* *Jeremiah 2.  
26, 27, 28, 29.  
wherein he saith  
let forth our judges  
State and  
Conditions, so  
worthy the Re-  
fusal of every  
Man.*



